

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF
THE TORRANCE WATER COMMISSION**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Torrance Water Commission convened in a regular session at 3:06 p.m. on Monday, November 16, 2009 in the Human Resources Meeting Room at Torrance City Hall.

2. ROLL CALL:

Present: Commissioners Deemer, Freeman*, McGee, Lew, and Chairperson See.

Absent: Commissioner Haddon.

Also Present: Deputy Public Works Director van der Linden,
Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich, and
Metropolitan Water District Director Wright.

MOTION: Commissioner Deemer moved to grant an excused absence to Commissioner Haddon for the November 16, 2009 Water Commission meeting. Commissioner McGee seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

*Commissioner Freeman arrived at 3:13 p.m.

3. FLAG SALUTE

Metropolitan Water District Director Wright led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING

MOTION: Commissioner McGee moved to accept and file the report of the City Clerk on the posting of the agenda for this meeting. Commissioner Deemer seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

5A. MINUTES OF OCTOBER 15, 2009

MWD Director Wright offered the following correction to the October 15, 2009 meeting minutes: Page 4, Item 10, paragraph 2, line 1: "He provided an update on conjunctive use negotiations,..."

MOTION: Commissioner McGee moved for the approval of the October 15, 2009 minutes as amended. Commissioner Lew seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner Haddon).

6. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM PUBLIC

The Commission welcomed Bob Siemak, Chief of Engineering and Planning, Water Replenishment District (WRD) of Southern California.

8A. CONSIDERATION OF STAFF RECOMMENDATION TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE WATER REPLENISHMENT DISTRICT (WRD) FOR OPERATION OF GOLDSWORTHY GROUNDWATER DESALTER

This item was taken out of order.

Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich presented staff's recommendation that the City take over operation of the Goldsworthy Desalter Facility at the City Yard. He described operation of the Desalter with the current contractor Southwest Water Company that has left the facility inadequately staffed, resulting in less than optimal performance and several extended shutdowns. He stated that the current contract expires December 31, 2009 and that WRD has requested that the City enter into an agreement with them to operate the facility beginning January 2010.

He discussed advantages to Torrance Municipal Water (TMW) that include increased reliability of supply and service, maximize Desalter production and help facilitate eventual expansion, reduce downtime, and enhanced relationship with WRD and security at City Yard. He noted that WRD is providing an accelerated training program, that TMW would receive full and augmented cost recovery under the arrangement, and that the water produced costs less than MWD water.

Responding to Commissioner Deemer's inquiry, Mr. Siemak stated that WRD has not seen any membrane deterioration but plans to replace membranes soon as part of its routine maintenance.

MWD Director Wright inquired about the possibility of a second desalter and Mr. Siemak discussed efforts through monitoring wells to characterize the saline plume and determine areas with highest concentration of salty water. He explained that because of adjudicated rights pumping is exempt from groundwater rights if it is salty enough.

In response to Commissioner Deemer's inquiry, Mr. Siemak stated that there is 250,000 to 300,000 acre-feet of brackish water in the area.

Commissioner Freeman inquired about MWD incentives and MWD Director Wright discussed the importance of conjunctive use and MWD's interest in creating more local supplies.

MOTION: Commissioner Lew moved to recommend approval that the City enter into an agreement with Water Replenishment District of Southern California to operate the Goldsworthy Groundwater Desalination Facility beginning in January 2010. Commissioner Freeman seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner Haddon).

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

7A. UPDATE REGARDING STATUS REQUIRED REDUCTION IN IMPORTED METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT (MWD) DELIVERIES, AS A RESULT OF WATER SUPPLY ALLOCATION

Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich presented an update from MWD comparing TMW's water use for the first four months of fiscal year 2009-2010 to the Water Supply Allocation Plan target. He was pleased to announce that TMW is currently approximately 13% below the 2004-2006 target baseline. He stated that Golden State will be providing more detailed information to assist in analysis but that it looks like the residential sector is reducing water usage the most. He stressed the need to continue and intensify the campaign to conserve water.

Commissioner Freeman initiated a brief discussion regarding possible credits from the Governor's 20-20 Plan and focusing conservation efforts on exterior water usage.

Commissioner Deemer received clarification that IAWP stands for Interim Agriculture Water Program and that wheeling is only in San Diego County.

Responding to Chairperson See's inquiry, Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich advised that ExxonMobil is the biggest user of water in Torrance, followed by the City, Torrance Unified School District, and homeowner associations. He offered to provide a list of users at the next Commission meeting and pointed out that 70-75% of ExxonMobil's water use is recycled water.

Commissioner McGee inquired about storm water recapture and staff described efforts in Malibu and Santa Monica.

In response to Commissioner Deemer's inquiry, Deputy Public Works Director van der Linden stated that Torrance has a huge network of sumps and that they extend into Palos Verdes, Redondo Beach, and Lomita.

7B. STATUS REGARDING DEVELOPMENT OF LANDSCAPE WATER CONSERVATION ORDINANCE MANDATED BY STATE LEGISLATION

Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich reported that Chairperson See and staff members attended an October 20, 2009 workshop at MWD to address Landscape Water Conservation Ordinance requirements. He announced that Orange County has developed an alternative Model Ordinance that is less complex and more user friendly than the State's Model Ordinance, and may serve as an appropriate model for formulating the City's Landscape Ordinance. He noted that cities that have not adopted an ordinance by January 1, 2010 will be subject to the State's Model Ordinance, but pointed out that there is a one-month window of reporting.

He stated that the Community Development Department serves as the lead agency for developing an ordinance since the requirements would apply as a condition of development. He stated that Public Works and Community Development staff will meet next week to draft a plan of action and, following this initial meeting, the Commission's Conservation Committee will be convened to provide its input and guidance.

9. METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT DIRECTOR'S REPORT

MWD Director Wright distributed his November 16, 2009 letter to Mayor and Council Members, pointing out the MWD Board meeting report on the Carlsbad Desalination Program. He noted that this is the first time the Board has approved a seawater desalination facility in Southern California, and explained that it is for 56,000 acre-feet per year and that MWD will provide up to \$250 per acre-foot if it costs that much above what MWD charges for Tier 1 supply.

He distributed a flow chart and 2009 Comprehensive Water Package Bill Summary regarding the Delta Plan. He announced that the Legislature recently approved four policy bills that include establishment of a new Delta Stewardship Council, sets ambitious water conservation policy, ensures better groundwater monitoring, and provides funds for enforcement of illegal water diversions. He stated that there is nothing in the bill about building an isolated facility but that it is important that the bond package gets passed in November 2010 in preparation for one.

Responding to Deputy Director van der Linden's inquiries, MWD Director Wright provided updates on a recent Board retreat and labor contract negotiations.

10. WEST BASIN WATER ASSOCIATION REPORT

Deputy Public Works Director van der Linden reported that at the November 3, 2009 West Basin Water Association meeting the Water Master announced that West Basin Municipal Water District has pumped 1,400 acre-feet more this year than in the previous year. He distributed fliers announcing WRD's 50th anniversary celebration on November 19, 2009 and reported that they purchased 3,000 acre-feet of Tier 1 water from Long Beach for spreading grounds. He announced a November 25, 2009 court hearing on the judgment, a West Basin Water Association quarterly dinner meeting on November 18, 2009, and a Golden State Water Company open house at Hawthorne Memorial Center on December 1, 2009.

11. MONTHLY DEPARTMENT REPORT

Deputy Director van der Linden presented the Monthly Department Report for November 2009, noting a 13% decrease in overall water production compared to October last year. He reported four water main breaks and discussed the November 13, 2009 major pipeline break on the trunk recycled water main. He stated that Well #9 has gone out to bid and that funding for fluoridation design will be considered by City Council on November 17, 2009.

MOTION: Commissioner Freeman moved to accept and file the Monthly Department Report as presented. Commissioner Lew seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner Haddon).

12. ORALS

12A. Commissioner Lew shared information about an ocean friendly garden workshop he attended in Redondo Beach on November 14, 2009. He stated that it was a very effective and practical presentation for homeowners.

12B. Deputy Public Works Director van der Linden announced a second Ad Hoc Council Committee on Commission Review meeting on November 16, 2009.

12C. Chairperson See wished Commissioner Haddon a speedy recovery.

12D. A brief discussion centered on changing the date of the next meeting due to a staff holiday party but it was decided to adjourn to the regularly scheduled meeting date.

12E. Commissioners and staff wished each other a happy Thanksgiving.

13. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: At 4:58 p.m., Commissioner Freeman moved to adjourn the meeting to December 17, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex Commission meeting room. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lew and, hearing no objection, Chairperson See so ordered.

Approved as Submitted January 21, 2010 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
